



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for the Grant Program to Secure a Statewide License for "My Dream Explorer"

The Michigan Legislature with the 2007 State School Aid Act, Section 98 (8), appropriated \$500,000 for a single competitive grant to an Intermediate School District to work in partnership with the Michigan Virtual University to secure a statewide license to make the recently enhanced "My Dream Explorer" available to all Michigan pupils at no cost.

This legislative appropriation supports Public Act No. 123 of 2006, Section 1278b (11), which requires "The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that each pupil in grade 7 is provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development plan before he or she begins high school."

The primary goal in securing a statewide license for "My Dream Explorer" is to provide access to high quality media rich career development resources for all Michigan elementary, middle and high school buildings and students at no cost beginning in October 2006. Prior to 1990, the state of Michigan provided all public schools with career development resources at no cost.

Eligible grantees are Intermediate School Districts that agree to establish a partnership with the Michigan Virtual University. The grant award will not exceed \$500,000.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the grant program to secure a statewide license for "My Dream Explorer" as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated August 28, 2006.

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MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for the Grant Program to Secure a Statewide License for "My Dream Explorer"

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students." In addition, the State Board has adopted the following five Strategic Initiatives to implement the goal:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Ensuring Excellent Educators | • Ensuring Early Childhood Literacy |
| Elevating Educational Leadership | • Integrating Communities and Schools |
| Embracing the Information Age | |

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will include priority consideration of the Strategic Goal and the Strategic Initiatives.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT

☒ Competitive ☐ Formula ☒ New ☐ Continuation *(check all that apply)*

The Michigan Legislature has directed that \$500,000 be made available through a single grant to an Intermediate School District to work in partnership with the Michigan Virtual University to secure a statewide license for "My Dream Explorer" to be made available to all Michigan pupils at no cost.

During 2005, with funds provided by the Microsoft Corporation, Michigan Virtual University was able to significantly upgrade and enhance its online career services planning tool "My Dream Explorer" (MDX). Currently available on a subscription basis to Michigan elementary, middle, and high school buildings, this enhanced online career exploration, planning, and development tool provides valuable resources for students, parents, counselors, teachers, and administrators. Recent Michigan Virtual University online career services enhancements include:

Classroom and subject area based activities aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations, the National Career Development Association Guidelines, and the American School Counseling Guidelines;

- Online four-part series of seminars for parents on the importance of career planning;
 - Online seminars for educators on the benefits of creating and delivering integrated curriculum for all subject areas, including mathematics and English language arts;
- Online video informational interviews of career professionals answering questions about their career choices and how mathematics, English, and technology are used in their work;
Options within the system so educators can communicate with students by class grouping and/or career pathway interest area;
Ability to inform educators which students may need more assistance with educational development plan (EDP) completion;
Online discussion options so educators can pose questions for student responses;
EDP completion reports for educators;
Talking points for parents to initiate conversations with their children on career topics.

The primary goal in securing a statewide license for "My Dream Explorer" is to provide access to high quality media rich career resources for all Michigan elementary, middle, and high school buildings and students at no cost beginning in October 2006. Prior to 1990, the State of Michigan provided all public schools with career development resources at no cost.

LEGISLATION

The 2007 State School Aid Act, Section 98, (8) appropriates \$500,000 for a single grant to an Intermediate School District to work in partnership with the Michigan Virtual University to secure a statewide license for "My Dream Explorer" to be made available to all Michigan pupils at no cost. Also, Public Act No. 123 of 2006, Section 1278b (11) requires "The board of a school district or

board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that each pupil in grade 7 is provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development plan before he or she begins high school. An educational development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the supervision of the pupil's counselor or another designee qualified under section 1233 or 1233a selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program."

RATIONALE FOR CRITERIA

This grant program advances the State Board of Education's Strategic Priorities of (1) continuing to advocate and promote school reform; (2) continuing to work on solidifying the relationship between and among the State Board of Education, Michigan Department of Education, and Intermediate School Districts; (3) encouraging family involvement in the education of students; and (4) developing a highly skilled 21st century workforce.

CRITERIA

☒ Defined in Legislation ☐ Defined in Department's Grant ☒ Proposed by Staff

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS MUST:

A single grant will be awarded to an Intermediate School District to work in partnership with the Michigan Virtual University. The Intermediate School District's application must address the following grant components:

- Evidence of a commitment to create a collaborative partnership with Michigan Virtual University;
- Evidence of prior experience in managing large-scale K-12 education projects;
- A proposed plan of work, including a project timeline and budget;
- A commitment to secure a statewide license for FY 2007 to make "My Dream Explorer" available to all Michigan pupils at no cost;
- A plan to provide the technical infrastructure and Help Desk support necessary to serve all participating schools;
- Outreach strategies to provide information and access to "My Dream Explorer" to all elementary, middle, and high schools in Michigan.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT

A single grant will be made available to an Intermediate School District to work in partnership with the Michigan Virtual University to serve all elementary, middle, and high schools in Michigan.

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE

A total of \$500,000 is available for a grant to secure a statewide license for FY 2007 to make "My Dream Explorer" available to all Michigan pupils at no cost.

OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT

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